



CALPEEK

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P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail: calpeek@aol.com

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LAST DEBATE DOESN'T BREAK ANY NEW GROUND, BUT RIORDAN, SIMON AND JONES TAKE OFF GLOVES

If you were looking for something new or a major mistake in the third gubernatorial debate Feb. 13th, it didn't happen. But the last debate did get very nasty. Among the 3 rivals, Bill Simon Jr. presented the clearest and most conservative vision of what he'd do as governor. Sec. of State Bill Jones still seemed obsessed with bashing Richard Riordan's GOP loyalty. And the former L.A. mayor seemed just as obsessed pitching his pro-choice credentials, while telling his rivals they couldn't win in November with their anti-choice views.

CAMPAIGN 2002: CALIF. BOND MEASURE POLITICS.

Editor's note: Most of the time it's the Calif. Legislature which places bond measures on the ballot. Lots of politics involved in these decisions. Here's our update & analysis about **Prop. 40** – the \$2.6 billion *Calif. Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002*...

...According to Calpeek sources, Prop. 40 wasn't even scheduled for the March 5th ballot, but when the State's powerful educational establishment pulled the plug on a huge school bond for the March 5th ballot, a large coalition in Sacto (Planning & Conservation League, League of Calif. Cities, The Nature Conservancy, Calif. State Fire-fighters Assn.) quickly assembled this bond measure...

...And even though a recent L.A. Times survey shows YES on Prop. 40 ahead by a margin of 62% vs. 24% NO and 14% undecided, sources say Prop. 40 supporters are clearly worried about their prospects. Why? Two reasons: 1) the State has a huge budget deficit (perhaps as big as \$12 billion); 2) the turnout in the March 5th primary will be very low and much more *conservative* than in November. FYI: at the recent Calif. Republican Party convention, delegates voted to oppose Prop. 40. No real shock here...

...There is another reason why Prop. 40 supporters are concerned: the L.A. Times survey did NOT mention the fiscal impact of Prop. 40 when they interviewed voters. Throw in the fiscal impact (\$4.3 billion over 25 years) and our sources

think the level of support probably drops to the low 50 percent level. Conventional wisdom is that for a bond measure or initiative to win (at this point in time), it needs to be in the high 50 to low 60 percent range...

...Complicating the picture for YES on Prop. 40 is another huge water bond (\$3.4 billion) measure, which is trying to get on the November ballot via the initiative route. Santa Monica-based Progressive Campaigns is now collecting between 600-700,000 valid signatures by a May 28th deadline. Some of the same groups who are backing Prop. 40 are behind this new proposal. The key difference between Prop. 40 and the new one: the one trying to make November is totally a water bond measure (vs. clean air, parks)...

...FYI: YES on Prop. 40 is on tv with two ads: a :30 sec and a :60 sec. The ads were produced by lead consultant Winner & Mandabach. In addition, likely absentee voters have received a 4-color brochure. The campaign has \$396,545 cash-on-hand and has expended some \$251,387. Gov. Gray Davis has endorsed Prop. 40. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: RIORDAN GETS POUNDED AT CRP CONVENTION. BILL SIMON WINS CRP STRAW VOTE.

Editor's note: Would former L.A. Mayor Riordan Riordan take a *Mulligan* on Feb. 7-10? It was probably the worst four days the GOP candidate for governor has had. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...The Calif. Republican Party convention in San Jose didn't start until Friday, Feb. 8th, but the day before the powerful NRA endorsed CA Sec. of State Bill Jones over rivals Bill Simon Jr. (who got an A rating from the NRA) and Riordan. The real purpose of the Jones endorsement was to use the occasion to bash Riordan as a gun grabber. Guns & politics are very complex here in Calif. and while Jones has been a long time friend of the NRA, at this point he's not going to win the GOP nomination. Had the NRA endorsed Simon, it might have been just enough to push him into a runoff with Gov. Gray Davis(D) – and our sources don't think the NRA wanted that to happen. Why not? The NRA and Davis share a substantial *common base*: cops, blue-collar union

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members and a growing number of women...

... The next day (Feb. 8th), the Contra Costa Times published a story by staffers Daniel Borenstein & Sandy Kleffman saying that former CA Gov. George Deukmejian would not support Riordan for governor if he were the GOP nominee. A major scoop and horrible news for Riordan...

... Back to Riordan and the CRP convention. On the day the convention got underway, Feb. 8th, CRP delegates got a letter from Team Riordan urging them not to vote in the Straw Poll because it could destroy party unity. *Pul-eeze!!!* That move was about as popular as ants at a picnic. And then CRP Chair Shawn Steel conducted a news conference where he proclaimed the party *more united than ever*. But twenty minutes later former CRP Chairs John McGraw, Mike Schroeder and John Herrington – all Simon backers – announced that they too could not vote for Riordan should he be the nominee. So much for party unity. Or as Calif. Demo Party spinMD Bob Mulholland put it, “*President Bush has more problems with the CA Republican Party than he does with Afghan warlords.*”...

... Next came the 3-way debate. And here again Riordan got pounded by Simon on Prop. 13, internet tax and why Riordan once said Californians are *undertaxed*; while Jones continued to hit Riordan for his support of Demos over the years. But the real screw up came when Riordan was asked to respond to Deukmejian’s denunciation. Riordan said, “George has a bad memory. The only thing he remembers are his grudges.” Oppps. Open mouth, insert foot, shoot foot. Say what you will about Jones or Simon, but The Duke is a GOP icon and bet your first born that Jones or Simon, or maybe even Davis, will use that line in a tv hit against Riordan. A big blunder by Riordan...

... As for the Straw Poll, it was took place on Feb. 10th and Simon won with 40%, followed by Jones at 32% and Riordan with 28%. Some 900 CRP delegates took part in the Straw Poll. Some sources actually thought the CRP convention was a big PLUS for Simon, the only question being whether he’ll actually spend what it takes to close the gap with Riordan. He recently pumped \$1.4 million more into his campaign...

... FYI: the key quote (from an AP story by Erica Werner) from former CRP Chair Mike Schroeder: *Gray Davis can run an intellectually honest campaign to the right of Riordan...and if he does that, Riordan’s dead and there is no reason to believe the Republican base is going to come out for Riordan.*” Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: GOP VOTERS ARE NOT FOCUSED ON THE DOWN-BALLOT STATEWIDE CANDIDATES
Editor’s note: There are 4 down-ballot statewide primaries which have drawn more than one GOP candidate. These include: Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner, Controller and Treasurer. Here’s a brief update on each of these primary contests, with some recent data from the Field Poll (Jan. 23-27, 293 likely GOP voters)...

◆ ***Secretary of State*** – While there is a very spirited primary on the Demo side, most Calpeek sources firmly believe former Assemblyman Keith Olberg of Victorville will be the eventual winner Mar. 5th. In the Field Poll, Olberg gets 12% vs. 7% each for attorney Mike Schaefer and Barbara Jean Marr. Undecided is at a 74%. Olberg is on many of the key GOP slates and has been endorsed by the some of the key Republican volunteer/grassroots groups: CRA, CRL, YRs. In addition, all of the key taxpayer groups have gone with Olberg: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.(HJTA); Nat’l Tax Limitation Cmt.; and Nat’l Taxpayers Alliance. The Straw Poll conducted at the recent CA Republican Party convention went big for Olberg: 558 votes vs. 70 for Marr and 81 for Schaefer. And Olberg has \$557,821 cash-on-hand. There is NO electronic/web reports for either Marr or Schaefer...

◆ ***Insurance Commissioner*** – The newest Field Poll shows 69% undecided in this 3-way primary between former L.A. Deputy Mayor Gary Mendoza, Stefan “Watchdog” Stitch (yes he changed his name) and Wes Bannister, the GOP’s nominee in 1990. Mendoza gets 14% vs. 9% for Stitch and 8% for Bannister. Neither Stitch nor Bannister have filed electronically. Report for Mendoza shows nearly \$13,000 c-o-h, but some bigger checks have been filed in the late reports. **Check this out:** turns out that the Calif. Republican Party paid Mendoza’s \$2,975 filing fee to run for IC – after also paying Mendoza’s filing fee for AG of \$2,800 (Mendoza dropped the AG run when Dick Ackerman decided to run at the last moment). This may not be illegal, but Bannister’s campaign thinks it *stinks*. The explanation from the CRP is that they didn’t know for sure Bannister was running (CRP claims Bannister never returned their calls and the party didn’t want the Demos to have a free ride). Sounds limp. FYI: In the Straw Poll @ the CRP convention, Mendoza 289 vs. 269 for Bannister and 119 for Stitch...

◆ ***Controller*** – Only thing new is the Field Poll. It shows State Sen. Tom McClintock ahead with 18% vs. only 7% each for BOE member Dean Andal and nurse Nancy Beecham. W. Snow Hume got 4%, with 64%

undecided. In the Straw Poll @ the CRP convention, it was McC 525 vs. 282 for Andal...

◆ **Treasurer** – This is a 2-person primary between former PUC member and CPA Greg Conlon and L.A. Co. GOP chair Mary Toman, who was a Deputy to State Treas. Matt Fong. Fong is Toman's key endorsement thus far. Both Toman and Conlon claim backing from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. In the new Field Poll, it's Conlon 22% vs. 14% for Toman, with 64% undecided. In the battle for funds, Conlon shows \$69,371 c-o-h, but he's given himself \$50,000. Toman's c-o-h is \$36,676, but she too has given herself lots of money: \$80,000 thus far (\$30k on 1/28, \$35k on 2/6 and \$15k on 2/7). At the CRP convention, Toman won the Straw Poll with 366 votes vs. 320 for Conlon. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: CALIF. LEGISLATIVE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is Part V in our continuing series of updates about key legislative primaries...

☒ **14th AD Update** – New polling in this Demo primary to replace termed out Dion Aroner shows former Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock(D) still in a commanding lead to win this seat. In a Decision Research poll for candidate Dave Brown(D), it shows Hancock with 32%, followed by Brown at 17%, with school board member Charles Ramsey in 3rd with 12%. The rest are undecided. This is an improvement for Brown, who in a previous poll was at about 5%...

☒ **78th AD** – Bonita Mayor Shirley Horton is widely viewed as the winner of this OPEN seat on the GOP side, but it's a 2-person battle on the Demo side between former Davis staff director Vince Hall and 70-year-old San Diego Councilman George Stevens, who is a fundamentalist minister. This AD has Howard Wayne's number, but in fact the turf use to belong to both Assemblymembers Juan Vargas and Christine Kehoe. Hall has won most of key endorsements: AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, CTA, COPS, League of Conservation Voters, Planned Parenthood. And in terms of Demo elected officials, he's got U.S. Reps. Susan Davis and Bob Filner; Sen. Dede Alpert + Vargas and Kehoe, as well as Speaker Herb Wesson and former Speaker Bob Hertzberg. Hall has amassed a hefty warchest and he will need it all to overcome Steven's strong name ID. Stevens' big problem: he doesn't fit this AD as well as Hall because he's pro-voucher and anti-choice. Still, Stevens could win unless it all comes together for Hall...

☒ **30th AD** – There are 4 Demos and 2 GOPers seeking to replace Assemblyman Dean Florez(D-Shafter), who is leaving his seat early to run for the Jim Costa's State Senate

seat. On the GOP side, the frontrunner is Dean Gardner. This AD is now 49% D vs. 37% R – thus a Demo should have a good shot at holding this seat. In the top tier are Nicole Parra, who works for U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D) and is the daughter of Kern Co. Sup. Pete Parra; and well-known Kern Co. farmer Jim Crettol. In the 2nd tier are Lemoore Mayor Ed Martin and two-term Hanford Councilwoman Dolores Gallegos – who has name ID and 1,000 signs. It's Parra and Crettol with the big warchests...

...Florez is "neutral," but his key campaign workers as well as many of his supporters are backing Crettol. There is some bad blood between Sup. Pete Parra and Florez. Crettol also has the endorsement of Sen. Jim Costa(D-Fresno), COPS, Arvin Mayor Juan Olivares and Delano Vice Mayor Pedro Rio + some labor support. Parra counts on big help from the UFW and CA Firefighters. A Crettol poll by Decision Research (end of January, 600 likely voters) shows Crettol at 35%, Parra 25%, Gallegos 18.5%, Martin at 5% and the rest undecided. Crettol sources view this contest as a guy with *Valley Values* vs. a *traditional liberal Demo*. Both sides are phone banking and Parra is hoping for a big Latino voter turnout. If the Latinos do indeed turn out in big numbers, she'll win. If they stay home, then Crettol wins...

CAMPAIGN 2002: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on hot primaries for Calif. U.S. House seats...

☒ **6th CD Update** – Looks like U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Petaluma) can rest easier because her Demo primary challenger, Santa Rosa Mayor Michael Martini, ended up with only \$12,075 cash-on-hand vs. Woolsey's \$294,392. Not a very impressive showing for Martini, who claims that Woolsey has lost touch with the voters in the 6th CD. And a Santa Rosa Press Democrat poll taken in mid-January shows Woolsey ahead of Martini by a 65% to 15% margin. That's a huge gap to close...

☒ **18th CD Update (Condit Watch)** – There's yet another poll in this primary featuring embattled U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D-Ceres). This poll was done by consultant DB Langman from Modesto and was not commissioned by any major candidate. The methodology is somewhat different too: 3,936 surveys were mailed to likely GOP and Demo voters in Stanislaus, Merced & San Joaquin counties (w/ postage paid return envelopes) between Jan. 10-11. 649 were returned between Jan. 15-19. On the Demo side, 328 completed surveys: Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza 38.7%, U.S. Rep. Gary Condit 30.5%, others 3.6% and don't know 26.2%. On the GOP side, 321 surveys were returned: State

Sen. Dick Montieth 35.2%, farmer George House 22.7%, Modesto Councilman Bill Conrad 10% and don't know 31.8%. House has dropped out of the running, but his name remains on the ballot...

☒ **39th CD** – This primary is getting both hot and nasty. But first the money: the leader is Linda Sanchez, sister of U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Orange Co.). Sanchez has \$144,913 c-o-h vs. \$79,164 for South Gate Councilman Hector De La Torre (D) and only \$19,697 for Assemblywoman Sally Havice. Sanchez is now on cable tv with a :60-sec. ad blasting both De La Torre and Havice. But it's the stuff about De La Torre which has some of his supporters in South Gate steaming. The ad starts out, "You've heard about the corruption in South Gate..." The next line in the ad mentions De La Torre name's, the implication being De La Torre is connected to an ongoing L.A. Co. DA's probe into corrupt politics in South Gate. Problem is that De La Torre is NOT under investigation. He's considered one of the good guys. And it turns out, according to the De La Torre campaign, U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez endorsed De La Torre in his last election in South Gate. Very interesting. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Feb. 19	Last day to register for the Mar. 5 primary.
Feb. 19	VP Dick Cheney (+Lynne) visit the Nixon Library (luncheon at noon), Yorba Linda, CA.
Feb. 23-26	Nat'l Governor's Assn. conf., Washington DC.
Feb. 24-26	CA Center for Educ. in Public Affairs, annual Sacramento Seminar.
Mar. 5	CA Primary Election.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **A Referendum on Workers' Comp Bill?** – As Calpeek hit deadline, Gov. Gray Davis (D) had still not acted on AB 749 to substantially increase workers' benefits and reform Calif.'s current workers' comp law. However, most insiders do expect Davis to sign the bill. As noted in last week's Calpeek, there is some talk among Calif.'s business community of launching a referendum against AB 749 or parts of that bill. The 90-day clock to get a referendum on the ballot starts when Davis signs the bill. By not signing AB 749 the day it hit his desk, Davis gave a "breather" to the business community to figure out what it will do. Some sources suggest there might be a legislative solution...

■ **Davis Vs. Riordan in the 17th AD** – This is the AD now represented by Demo Assemblywoman Barbara Matt-

hews of Tracy. Although it was redrawn to be more Demo friendly, fact is GOPers have been doing a very heavy voter registration drive and the gap between Demos & GOPers has been narrowed so substantially that the 17th AD is now considered a swing AD. Demos have been polling regularly in this AD – including polling Gray Davis vs. Richard Riordan. Several weeks ago, prior to Davis' carpet-bombing of Riordan on abortion, Riordan held a 4-5% lead. But more recent polling by Demos (done during the time the Davis daisy-cutters ads on abortion were dropped on Riordan) now show Davis leading by 9-10%...

■ **Musical Chairs In Compton** – In case you missed it, after a 10-week trial, on Feb. 8th L.A. Sup. Court Judge Judith C. Chirlin ordered that former Compton Mayor Omar Bradley be reinstalled as mayor of this L.A. County city, thereby tossing out current Mayor Eric Perrodin, who served for 7 months. Perrodin defeated Bradley in June of 2001 by 281 votes, but Bradley went to court charging fraud. Fact is that Compton's City Clerk Charles Davis put Perrodin's name first on all the ballots – instead of rotating the names. Davis got pounded in Chirlin's ruling. An Ohio State poli-sci professor who testified for Bradley noted that being first on the ballot gives a candidate between a 2.87% and 3.32% advantage. When applied to the Compton vote, Judge Chirlin figured Perrodin, an L.A. Co. Deputy DA, received 306 votes that should have gone to Bradley. Most Calpeek sources were stunned by Chirlin's decision – figuring she might just order a new election. A very big win for attorney Bradley Hertz, who represented Omar Bradley. An appeal is still up in the air, but legal sources say it's likely...

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